

Film Weekly VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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Silverthorne Warns Theatres

Theatres Busy On Fats Drive

The theatre drive to obtain fat renderings, extremely valuable in the manufacture of explosives, is in operation in some parts of the country and being planned carefully in others where none of the matinees have been held yet. The system provides school teachers with tickets for the special Saturday.

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NFB Completes 4-Reel Feature

The National Film Board, which has up to now confined the length of its features to two reels and less, has completed a four-reel feature titled, "Not the Gates of Hell." It will be released in the USA as part of "The World in Action" series, which are handled by United Artists, within the next

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Laurie to Republic, Painter Spreads Out

Archie Laurie, formerly of Esquire Films, has become sales manager of Republic Pictures in Canada. A. W. Perry, general manager of Empire-Universal has announced.

Harry Painter, who was succeeded by Laurie, takes charge of the Toronto Branch of Empire-Universal.

Mrs. Gregory, Odeon In Partnership

Mrs. Jean Gregory has entered into partnership arrangements with Odeon Theatres of Canada. The deal involves the Royal, York and Windsor theatres, Hamilton, Ont. Mrs. Gregory is the widow of the late Leslie Gregory, who was killed in a plane crash.

Fire and Police Chiefs Report Laxity on Part of Managers

Calling pointed attention to Section 11 of the Theatres and Cinematographs Act of the Province of Ontario, which deals with liability for bodily injury or loss of life in theatres, O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Ontario Motion Picture

Chairman



N. A. Taylor, who is chairman of the Toronto motion picture committee to aid the Red Cross campaign.

New Movie House For St. John's, Nfld.

Plans are now drawn and specifications prepared for a new theatre on Harvey Road, St. John's, Nfld. Bernard D. Parsons is one of the interested parties.

Robbery Foiled

Thieves tried to force their way into the Amherst Theatre, Montreal, last week but couldn't get past the doors. Nothing but some slight damage resulted.

Bureau, issued a sharp and strict warning to theatre men who have been careless in observing the law regarding crowding of aisles, blocked exit doors, etc.

Section 11, which will be invoked by his department immediately in any case coming under it, reads: "If any breach of this Act or of any of the regulations causes directly or indirectly bodily injury or loss of life the owner, lessee, manager, operator or other person through or by whom such breach occurred shall, in addition to any

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Form 16 Mm. Group

Lt.-Col. John A. Cooper is chairman of the new Canadian 16 mm. Motion Picture Distributors' Association.

Army, Industry In Conference

Canadian film and theatre men met in Toronto last week with representatives of the armed services to discuss improvement in the booking and presentation of motion pictures for the armed services. The meeting was organized by F. D. Tolchard of the Board of Trade at the request of Squad-

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O'Regan Heads East Ontario MPTAO

The Eastern Ontario Division of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario met in Ottawa last week at the Chateau Laurier and elected William O'Regan, Laurier Theatre, Hull, as its division chairman. Henry Marshall, Regent Theatre, Ottawa, became secretary-treasurer for 1943.

'The Moon is Down' World-Preemed Here

"The Moon Is Down," Twentieth Century-Fox's splendid picture of the struggle on the Norwegian home front, made its world debut in Toronto last Saturday before a large audience of motion picture editors from Canada and the

Loew's, Montreal, Robbed of \$300

While the cashier of Loew's, Montreal, Miss Noreen Brown, was counting the day's receipts a robber stuck his hand in quickly, grabbed a pile of bills totalling between \$200 and \$300. He got away with it.

Hooks Off in USA

American theatres have dropped bingo, giveaways, etc., of late with no effect on boom attendance.

United States, Norwegian air force officers and men, Sir Cedric and Lady Hardwicke, and a number of executives connected in various ways with the Canadian motion picture industry. The initial unreeled took place at Little Norway, headquarters of the Norwegian air force and mecca of the brave young men of that occupied country who are escaping every day from the Nazi yoke.

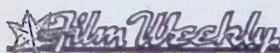
The showing of the film, which met with intense interest through-

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'Uncensored'

OVER for the second week at the Eglinton Theatre, Toronto.

Another winner from ESQUIRE starring ERIC PORTMAN of '49th Parallel.' Phyllis Calvert and Griffith Jones also star in 'UNCENSORED,' which was directed by Anthony Asquith. **HELD** (adv.)



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This Is Serious

Apparently the recent prosecution of theatres for infractions have not had the anticipated effect. Careless managers are ignoring their otherwise good sense and putting themselves and their employers on the spot. Thoughtless exhibitors are placing the exhibition industry in a poor position. There is no need at any time to indulge in raising receipts by temporary and momentary infractions.

Quebec exhibitors are still paying the price of a theatre tragedy 12 years ago. The fight to change laws which restrict juvenile admission to motion picture theatres has been revived there under the finest auspices. But children had lost their lives in a theatre fire. Tragic memories live a long time. The Montreal City Council, requested to support a change, instead asked for the retention of the law.

There is no other safeguard against bad will for the industry than absolute observance of the law.

Take Heed!

O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch of the Province of Ontario, has issued a flat and final warning that under no consideration will violations of the Ontario theatre laws be tolerated. Many times in the past the department has taken what it considered a fair view, accepting the explanation that the situation found by an inspector had cropped up at that moment and was taking place in the course of observing the regulations.

Now the inspectors have been ordered to report every case, no matter the circumstances. The reports will be followed by prosecutions and the courts will be allowed to judge the theatre's explanation.

This will cause a hardship on many theatre men. There will be time wasted and trouble involved. But Mr. Silverthorne cannot be blamed. His department is responsible for the safety of the theatre-going public of Ontario. None welcome vigilance in this direction more than theatre owners.

Nor can it be said that Mr. Silverthorne and his men are over-zealous. The chairman has always showed an understanding of the difficulties of theatre operation. He has been no remote power but has stayed in close contact with the problems and people of the industry. He has always had the respect of Ontario theatre men.

Jail and Fine

We repeat the Ontario law quoted to us by Mr. Silverthorne: "If any breach of this Act or of any of the regulations causes directly or indirectly bodily injury or loss of life the owner, the lessee, manager or operator or other person through or by whom such breach occurred shall, in addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year."

And take our word for it, the Bureau isn't fooling.

CANADIAN + RED CROSS
CAMPAIGN

O. J. Silverthorne Warns Theatres

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other penalty prescribed by law, be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year."

"I intend to hold every manager 100 per cent liable," said Mr. Silverthorne, "in every case where responsibility for the proper conduct of the house is his. Circuit heads, of their own volition and at our request, have warned them against violation of the regulations many times and there will be no more leeway of any kind."

Mr. Silverthorne said that since last Saturday afternoon his office has been deluged with phone calls and letters from fire and police chiefs all over the province, informing him of many cases of children crowding the aisles at matinee shows.

"We intend to check every theatre every Saturday afternoon and will not only prosecute any and all violators, but we will recommend cancellation of their licenses. Aisles and exit doors must be kept clear and matrons must be on duty all the time."

The case of the Palace Theatre, New Toronto, of which the operator was fined \$100 for not having the emergency exits free and unobstructed, was only the beginning, stated Mr. Silverthorne. The case is being appealed. A second charge of not having exits lighted during the time the theatre was open was dismissed when the Crown Counsel conceded that the lights may have been destroyed by the vandalism of boys.

"I have given serious consideration to this case and feel that you are in a different class from the average person," said Magistrate McIlveen. "You have been fined \$100 before for the same offence. You have had warnings with the fires at Boston and St. John's and I feel the court should do everything to make you live up to the regulation."

The Ontario Motion Picture Bureau has successfully prosecuted a number of exhibitors and managers for violations in the recent past. Mr. Silverthorne feels that operators and managers have not taken sufficient warning from this but have continued to solve the problem of boom patronage the easy way for themselves.

The use of Section 11, which places manager, owner, operator and lessee on the spot may bring a realization of the serious view the Bureau takes of infractions.

Wally Allen Here

Wally Allen, field man for 20th Century-Fox studios in the Toronto-Buffalo area, was in town last week looking things over.

Canada Preems 'Moon Is Down'

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out and prolonged applause at the end, was publicized throughout Canada and the United States over the Mutual Broadcasting System through a broadcast by United States Treasury Department that followed immediately from the same stage. It's famed program, "The Bondwagon," was devoted to the ingenuity and courage of escaping Norwegians, several of whom recounted their experiences at the request of Sir Cedric Hardwicke. Sir Cedric, star of "The Moon Is Down," and Lady Hardwicke appeared on the air show.

At the conclusion of the broadcast Colonel Relstadt, the officer in charge of Little Norway, who earlier had welcomed the guests, thanked Sir Cedric and Lady Hardwicke, the United States Treasury Department and Twentieth Century-Fox. After Sir Cedric, James P. O'Loghlin, Canadian general manager of the film company, was unexpectedly called upon to reply, which he did in fine, heart-warming fashion, expressing the pride he felt in his company's service to so great a cause.

Twentieth Century-Fox, through the Hal Horne offices, sent a good-sized staff to Toronto, which was led by Ted Lloyd, who handled the radio end and Jack Goldstein, who supervised the press guests. The boys and girls did a fine job of keeping the complicated events running smoothly and pleasantly. They made many friends by their courtesy and common sense handling of things.

The guests were entertained at a luncheon in the Royal York Hotel, followed by a tour of Little Norway. At the conclusion of the screening and broadcast the visitors were guests in the Officers' Mess.

'God Save The King' Trailers

Showing Picture
of the King and
the Waving Flag

Short Trailer.....\$4.88
Long Trailer.....\$7.00

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'The Moon is Down' Gripping

New Hardy In Groove

"ANDY HARDY'S DOUBLE
LIFE"

MGM
(Running Time: 91 Mins.)

For some reason everyone seems to think that the hardy Hardy family, which has outlived many screen clans, is about to split up, though the studio has given no indication of it. Though Andy's problems, in the light of current events, haven't the same interest as in the past, his new Hardy film offers the same tried-and-true material. Andy has girl trouble again in large and luscious gobs.

The Hardy films are usually lavish with plots and this one is no exception. Judge Hardy has to be stopped from crimping Andy's college career by leading him to his alma mater by the hand. Andy sells his old car and orders a new one, using a postdated cheque, which cries for money in the bank. Judge Hardy has a hard and humane case to settle. Andy makes love to several girls and gets all tangled up—just to be able to show off their love letters to the other collegians. The cad.

So you see, if you don't like one plot, you can take your choice from among the others.

All the family and the usual characters are on hand. Susan Peters and Esther Williams provide additional feminine complications. Miss Williams is a new-comer, capable and beautiful.

The picture might easily be Andy's farewell to early youth, since he's heading for college. Mickey Rooney, the veteran Andy, looks quite squat and somewhat Japish in build and it's disconcerting to see him towered over by normally-built girls.

Maybe MGM should have provided against a Rooneysless Hardy family by planting a kid brother 'way back. However, Mickey will be around Hollywood for a long time, it seems, the army having turned him down.

'Hitler's Children' Big

"Hitler's Children," RKO feature which cost \$170,000 to make, has grossed over \$1,000,000 already and broken attendance records everywhere shown.

HARDWICKE, TRAVERS STAR IN FILM OF UNDERGROUND

"THE MOON IS DOWN"

20TH CENTURY-FOX
(Running Time: 90 Mins.)

The screen version of John Steinbeck's "The Moon is Down," in our opinion, is the best underground story turned out in Hollywood up to now. There have been enough first-class features produced now on that heroic subject to provide a comparison. Several of these have occupied themselves with the suffering, resistance and the eventual triumph of the main characters. Others have ended with the rescue of the imprisoned villagers by Commandos. Most of them are based on true incidents out of the news.

Yet none of them have packed as much grim truth as "The Moon is Down," a fictional story of Norway today. The failure of previous films to match the convincing realism of this latest effort may be due to Hollywood's faith in certain fixed ingredients with audience appeal, such as humor, love and victory—a faith born of experience. But those ingredients don't always jell when mixed with tragedy of a real-life nature. Two recent motion pictures bred much resentment when comedy was played against a background of Nazi devastation.

Surprisingly, the movie public, which most picture people believe unable to take anti-Nazi medicine without it being mixed with something sweet, has proved otherwise lately. "Hitler's Children" is revealing that the public can take it's medicine straight if the stuff has genuineness.

"The Moon is Down" departs from the formula in a number of ways. It places acting above private personality. Its villain is the star of the piece. It does not end on a note of visual triumph. But it is an enthralling drama, presenting a subject unknown to our daily lives in a way that makes you sure it is. There are no fast-moving events and sudden story twists, for they would surely remove from the mounting interest in the inevitable results of a pol-

ity of resistance to the Nazis. The people of the Norwegian town are aware of their eventual fate and so is the audience. To substitute immediate salvation would have colored the picture with untruth.

The adherence to truth, as the heroic Norwegians know it, and the presentation of the Nazis as the warped humans they are, helped create a motion picture of the finest quality and one whose boxoffice power is just about guaranteed.

The studio is reported to have paid \$300,000 for a story treated in so daring a Hollywood fashion. To make the benefit of its experiment public it has turned out a great publicity campaign, one leg of which was the premiere at Little Norway before critics from all over the continent, reported elsewhere in this issue.

Sir Cedric Hardwicke, as the highly intelligent, reasoning but ruthless Nazi colonel, is superb. He has given his best motion picture performance to date. Henry Travers, as the mayor who faces a firing squad rather than provide legal authority for Nazi tyranny, is great. Lee J. Cobb, as his compatriot, serves up a worthwhile performance, as does Irving Pichel, as a villager. Peter van Eyck, as a lonely Nazi officer, and Doris Bowden, widowed by the Nazis, whom he woos and at whose hands he dies, are both splendid.

The story is a day-to-day account of the Nazi occupation, after a graphic introduction via Hitler's voice and conquests. The realization of the Norwegians of what it all means, the growth of slavery among the miners and the broadening of resistance, pictured against military terror, makes up the film. The spirit of free men, remaining uncorrupted under the most severe trials, reaches beyond the screen and inspires all.

"The Moon is Down," having been offered to the public earlier as a book and a play, will have a waiting audience.

Durbin Back In Good Film

"THE AMAZING MRS.
HOLLIDAY"

UNIVERSAL
(Running Time: 97 Mins.)

Miss Deanna Durbin, erstwhile oricle and champion of the cute kids' league, has apparently been undergoing a new formative period, physical this time, during the year she has remained unscreened. Deanna has bowed back in with voice intact but bounded by shapey outlines on all sides. She is definitely love stuff and sure to inspire a new kind of interest.

"The Amazing Mrs. Holliday," her return vehicle, is not designed to make the most of Deanna's human hills and valleys but they're there for all who find that sort of thing fetching. For her regular far-flung clientele, which has a marked taste for wholesome charm against a Cinderella scheme, the whole picture provides a heaping helping.

Deanna plays a white teacher in China who has inherited a number of children, one of them Chinese and extremely cute, who were orphaned by Japanese bombs. She guides her adopted brood to the coast and searches for a USA-bound ship. The whole kaboodle are stowed away on a ship captained by rich, crusty old Harry Davenport, Deanna being aided in her endeavours by Barry Fitzgerald, a sailor.

The ship is torpedoed but the Durbin entourage is picked up and makes the USA, being permitted to get around the rules by nice immigration officers. Davenport, the captain, is believed lost. Deanna tells a big white lie—that the captain, a rich shipowner, had promised to care for the children. Then she poses as his widow, much to the consternation of his grasping family. To say nothing of the grandson, who comes upon them in the ancestral mansion and falls in love with the lot—mainly Deanna.

Edmond O'Brien is the grandson. Barry Fitzgerald gives a swell performance as the sailor. Other well-known players who contribute are Arthur Treacher, Grant Mitchell, Frieda Inescort, Elizabeth Risdan and Gus Schilling.

It's lively, human and interesting.

Army, Industry In Conference

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ron Leader H. T. I. Lee, who acted as chairman. Squadron Leader Lee is chairman of the newly-organized Films Committee, which held its first meeting in Ottawa last week.

The meeting was in the nature of a conference at which an exchange of opinions on all sides resulted.

Those present concerned themselves with conditions under which performances were carried on, the unsatisfactory situation in the booking of 16 mm. films and other such matters. The ventilation, safety, equipment, acoustics, etc., of army huts where films are shown and methods of improving them came in for consideration.

A joint committee of eight, four from each side, was appointed to study the booking problem. It will seek to speed up booking and see that army camp distribution is set up along theatre lines, with the proper films going to the right camps at the right time.

Camps showing 16 mm. films may show the same feature as the nearest theatre at the same time, if the theatre is a 35 mm. one. Calgary is an exception because there is a 16 mm. theatre situated in that city which requires protection.

Those present were: L. Rosenfeld, chairman of the Motion Picture Branch of the Toronto Board of Trade; Squadron Leader H. T. I. Lee; Lieut. Harwood, RCN; Captain Gurston Allen; Lt.-Col. John A. Cooper; J. J. Fitzgibbons; J. P. O'Loughlin; David Coplan; A. W. Perry; Walter Kennedy; Frank O'Byrne; H. Freedman; Syd Taube; Ben Geldsaler; Wm. Redpath; R. Ryan, K. of C.; Capt. Ben Allen, Canadian Legion; Major Cook, YMCA; George Oullahan, YMCA; Major Barr, Salvation Army, and Major Fairhurst, Salvation Army.

The Films Committee, of which Squadron Leader Lee is chairman, was appointed by the Joint Organizations and Services Committee, the latter having the Department of National Defence blessing to deal with matters between the services and National Voluntary Organizations.

Maynard, Schernoff Back from New York

Paul Maynard, Toronto manager of PRC, is back after a confab with head office officials in New York. PRC has "Corregidor" coming up as a special and it's being pre-sold in a big way in the USA.

Jerry Schernoff, Montreal branch manager, was also in New York and shares Maynard's enthusiasm.



Purposeful Good Fellowship

Last week Sir Cedric Hardwicke, star of "The Moon Is Down," was in Toronto for the world premiere of the 20th-Fox picture at Little Norway. Sir Cedric plays a Nazi colonel, icy and cruel.

A reporter remarked to the English actor that he considered him affable and friendly—quite unlike the screen Hardwicke. Sir Cedric explained that he is trying to dissipate the screen impression of himself.

"I was determined to become a hall-hearty-fellow-well-met," he told the Globe and Mail reporter. "One day in Hollywood I met a chap I thought I knew. I slapped him on the back. He punched me back. We were having a great time. I was sure he must be some big producer. I finally found out who he was. Before we parted, he had sold me a page of advertising in the Hollywood Reporter!"

Jimmy in Khaki



The guy with the crinkled kisser is Jimmy Cameron, Famous Players exploiter, who is now a W.O.Z. He's doing his stuff for Jack Arthur's Army Show. Jimmy has been a booster since 1936, after starting out in the business as an usher.

Jim is extremely popular in the haunts of the trade and has the ability to smile his way into any place.

Serious Patrons

Curly Posen, who manages the Broadview, reports that the public doesn't always recognize a gag. Recently Curly issued a waiver, asking any patrons of that week's horror show to sign it, thus surrendering any claims against the theatre for ill-effects. It's not original, of course. But one lady submitted one of the waivers to the cashier with the question: "Is this signed correctly?"

A while ago Curly issued a Laff Ration Card for an Abbott & Costello feature. Several customers brought the cards in to be punched.

Wit and Loyalty

An exhibitor tried kidding Regal's Henry Nathanson about the record-breaking "Random Harvest," MGM's current pride and joy.

"I know where the 'Random' is from. Ronald Coleman's home in the film is called 'Random Hall.' But where do they get the 'Harvest'?"

"Ask any exhibitor," snapped Henry. "At the boxoffice!"

Purely Accidental

Somebody ought to name the gremlins that infest theatres, since airmen certainly haven't got the exclusive attention of the mythical little mischief makers who spoil things.

One theatre manager, expecting a call from the circuit heads, hung the photos of his two leading superiors in a prominent place in the office. They dropped in as expected.

The manager's pleased look turned to one of embarrassment as he followed the eyes of his superiors to the photos. Below them, where it had been placed carelessly, was a sign which read "Horror Show."

Theatres Busy On Fats Drive

(Continued from Page 1)

day matinees, to be distributed among children who have delivered two pounds of fat to the school.

This method saves the theatre space and the manager trouble. The Nanaimo, B.C., Salvage Committee, working in conjunction with the Capitol and Strand theatres, has hit on an idea to extend the drive to as many housewives as possible. "If you have no children attending school," says the appeal, "save your materials for the boy or girl next door."

The Capitol, Patricia and Palace theatres, London, Ontario, completed their special "fat" salvage morning shows, which proved to be a great success.

More than a ton of fat was realized, according to the figures issued to the press by the London Salvage Committee. At the Capitol theatre alone, the report says, enough fat was collected to supply the ingredients for 180 anti-tank mines. In addition, at the Patricia, enough was brought in to supply the propellant for 5,000 machine gun bullets. At the Palace enough was collected to make 380 pounds of high explosive.

Belleville, Ontario, theatres provided an example of what can be done for the fats drive. The appeal there, led by Tommy Mascaro, Capitol; George Forhan, Belle; and Willard Fawcett, McCarthy; netted 1,700 pounds of the valuable stuff — enough to manufacture 10,000 anti-aircraft shells. R. Connolly, of the National Salvage Department, Ottawa, was in Belleville and praised the managers and staffs for their great work.

Seven Vancouver theatres, the Alma, Grandview, Kerrisdale, Kittisano, Regent, Victoria and Windsor held fats matinees last week and made a big haul.

The St. Catharines, Ontario, Theatre Managers' Association held a special meeting to plan its drive and will distribute 4,200 tickets to the schools. Those present were Leo Coyle, chairman, Granada; A. Kent Craig, secretary, Capitol; Roy Miller, Lincoln; Dewey McCourt, Palace, and Harry Rosenberg, Centre. Kent Craig, handling the theatre publicity, has asked the local IATSE to co-operate in providing the services of projectionists.

In Ottawa the local section of the Motion Picture Theatres Association, which has issued a booklet for the guidance of managers during the drive, has arranged for matinees on March 27th.

Get your own campaign under way as soon as possible. These days one drive follows on the heels of the other and delay has had an adverse effect on all of them.

Saga of a Pioneer Showman

Manager



James I. Foy, formerly of Pioneer and Monogram, who has succeeded Leon "Pop" Osier as manager of the Regent Theatre, Oshawa, Ontario, a Famous house. Jim got into the game after the last war. Leon Osier resigned recently.

Blackout Lineup Okay in USA

Of interest to Canadian theatre managers is a ruling from Springfield, Mass., police on the correct procedure to be followed by theatre patrons lined up at the box office during a blackout test.

To ask movie patrons to surrender their places in line to take shelter in buildings when only a test is on is asking too much, police determined. It's okay to remain in line before theatres when blackout tests are in progress.

No ruling has been given here on patrons' conduct during a Canadian raid test.

Ontario Anti-Hate Bill Mentions Theatres

J. J. Glass, member of the Ontario Legislature for Toronto-St. Andrews, has served notice of a bill to make it illegal to discriminate against any person because of race, creed or color.

The bill aims to prevent racial discrimination by hotels, restaurants and other public places in granting employment.

20th-Fox Distributes 'Desert Victory'

Twentieth Century-Fox will distribute "Desert Victory," the six-reel film showing the defeat of Rommel's forces in Africa by General Montgomery's Eighth Army. Picture will be released in a month.

New Glasgow, N. S., Lauds N. W. Mason On His 79th Birthday and Remembers Him As an Actor, Athlete and Legislator

One of the most popular citizens in the Maritimes is the popular veteran showman, N. W. Mason. His neighbors miss few chances to let him and the world know how highly they regard him.

The other week "N.W." enjoyed his 79th birthday and the New Glasgow Eastern Chronicle devoted much editorial space to him. Its comment is informative and very interesting and, with an appreciative nod, we reprint it for your enjoyment.

"We all must have birthdays. Some may try to dodge them or forget them. Norman W. Mason, ex-Mayor and Manager of Roseland Theatre and the Academy of Music, does not belong to either class. He tells the world about them or is willing that it knows. Now he is cracking 79 and feeling pretty good for his years and sicknesses. So here are hearty congratulations to the veteran business man, showman, civic administrator, theatre manager and the hundred and one other things that N. W. boosted and pushed to a success since he became a citizen of this town.

The writer well recalls when he first arrived here near a half-century ago from down Liverpool way, on the south Atlantic coast of this province. We can still in our mind's eye see him in the first confectionery store he opened here, garbed in white, in the window, to the great interest of the passers-by, handling a great quantity of hot candy mix. Tossing it over a hook, stretching it and generally giving it the works. Mason, we always thought, excelled as a candy maker, and what a worker he was! He applied to that business the same energy he has always applied to the other affairs with which he has been associated.

Scanning over those "other affairs" they become equally interesting and pleasant recollections to all citizens of New Glasgow, Mr. Mason's adopted town. He has become an important part of this burgh and entered every activity often as a leader and never as an uninterested spectator.

N. W. Mason could never divorce himself from the show business. One of his early ventures was taking over the curlers' rink during the summer months and converting it into a theatre. We never saw N. W. happier than when introducing to a local audience some of the best talent of the New York stage out on a barnstorming tour.

How he revelled in amateur theatricals! There are many older stars who were his companions on trips to the theatre stage. He

gathered about him local talent, and good at that. He trained, tutored and presented them to the wonderment of all. They were all clever productions and we would hate to venture how many times there has been given the positively last appearance of "The Old Homestead." We might be a dozen wrong but the calls on another season were too strong to resist, and on it came again.

His proud day was when he had a theatre of his own. First the Academy of Music and then Roseland. He had now left the boiling candy pots and was a widely recognized showman.

In the field of sport N. W. was unique. He played baseball before he came to New Glasgow. We recall an occasion when an aged gentleman who was a baseball enthusiast from the South Shore complained that New Glasgow had taken away two of its outstanding baseball players, George Cox and Norm Mason.

Mr. Mason, after a seasoning as Town Councillor and member of the School Board, became thrice our Mayor and Chairman of the School Board. He was in every sense a good Mayor.

Personally he would not make a platform exhibit for a temperance lecture or a living example of injuries of the weed for an anti-tobacco league. And the one thing that does not annoy him is the increased price of liquor and the new tax on tobacco, for he has yet to take his first drink, and has never smoked. He has ever been a staunch supporter of his church.

We can't say why we have picked out N. W.'s birthday for special mention. Perhaps because he is such a strange and likeable mixture. He possesses neither all the virtues, nor all the vices. Just his pardonable share. He has been successful in business. Speaks out when necessary. As a faithful public servant, for many things the community owes him a debt of gratitude for his progressiveness.

On behalf of our readers and ourselves, The Eastern Chronicle extends to Mr. Mason congratulations on catching up with his 79th birthday and may he take many more milestones in his stride as showman and good citizen."

Roddy McDowell Due

Roddy McDowell, 20th-Fox kid star, will visit Toronto for three days in April, the 5th, 6th and 7th. Accompanied by his mother and a tutor, he's on a transcontinental tour, having his first look at how the other kids live.

NFB Completes 4-Reel Feature

(Continued from Page 1)

month. Information as to the method of distribution in Canada is lacking at the moment.

Using clips from confiscated German film, as well as English, French and American footage, the picture's theme is described as the conflict between the Nazi philosophy and that of democracy.

The title itself is taken from an indicative quotation by Abraham Lincoln: "Of the people when they rise in mass in behalf of the liberties of the country truly may it be said: the gates of hell cannot prevail against them."

Originally conceived as one of the regular two-reel monthly releases of the Film Board's "World in Action" series the picture's dimensions quickly outgrew its original length. Because of the importance of the theme—the statement of the enduring strength of the democratic faith as against the hollow Fuehrer philosophy—it was decided by John Grierson, head of the Canadian Information Services, to develop it into four-reel length and distribute it to theatres as an individual short feature.

Still Going Up

USA theatre attendance is reported as 25 per cent over a year ago. In the cities it's closer to 40 per cent.

For Theatre Requirements
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THE WORLD

Corregidor

From the 'Blood Red Rock' comes the most poignant story of the war.

Here is that story, re-created in realistic drama that all may see and know how these heroes of Corregidor died that we may live.

Starring

ELISA LANDI
OTTO KRUGER
DONALD WOODS

with

Frank Jenks, Riehl Vallin,
Wanda McKay, Ian Keith

*

CORREGIDOR

Alfred Noyes, noted English poet, wrote 'Corregidor' especially for the picture. The poem, narrated in the picture by Mr. Noyes, has been published everywhere.

*

Producers Releasing Corporation
LIMITED

Executive Offices:

277 Victoria St., Toronto, 2, Ont.

A. Levey Guides Para's Television

Following a meeting of the Board of Directors of Scopophony Corporation of America, Arthur Levey was signed to a five-year contract to serve as president and general manager of the television company. It was announced that the Board took this action to insure continuity of management and to keep Levey at the helm of the organization which he established. Television Productions, Inc., a subsidiary of Paramount Pictures, Inc., and General Precision Equipment Corporation are associated with Levey in the operation of Scopophony.

American enterprise and capital may be said to have contributed largely to the successful development of the new "supersonic" television which brings to this country the only system to compete with the "electronic" method used in all other American television systems, inasmuch as Levey, a founder, director and one of the major shareholders of Scopophony, Ltd., the British company, is an American citizen.

Born in New York City, Levey served with the AEF in the first world war, after which he went to London and became prominently identified with the film industry. Among his business associates at various times were Lord Beaverbrook, Sir William Jury, Sir Bonham Carter, John Maxwell, Oscar Deutsch, Col. A. C. Bromhead and the American producers, Walter Wanger, Rex Ingram and Al Lichtman.

For nearly a quarter of a century, Levey has been active in enterprises to further the cause of Anglo-American unity and was the moving factor behind the Lord Northcliffe Mission to the United States in 1920. As the result of a luncheon, to the Mission at which Mr. Levey was host, at the Hotel Astor, attended by industry leaders on Feb. 17th, 1920, the Motion Picture Division of the Anglo-American Unity League, Inc., was formed and among its directors were Samuel Goldwyn, Richard A. Rowland, J. D. Williams, Lewis J. Selznick, Austin Keough and Arthur Levey. Lord Northcliffe's representative, W. G. Faulkner, and Levey toured the country, enlisting thousands of Americans in the Unity League. Levey was then twenty-one years old and chairman of the National Executive Committee of the League which he founded.

It is an interesting commentary that in 1921 Levey was Foreign Sales Manager of Associated Producers, Inc., an organization of

leading American film producers—Thomas H. Ince, Mack Sennett, Allan Dwan, Maurice Tourneur and others—who had seceded from Paramount, and Levey had the responsibility of leading the fight against Paramount, especially in Great Britain. Today, Paramount through its subsidiary, Television Production, Inc., has joined Levey as a partner in Scopophony Corporation of America, which is expected to play an important part in the development of the television industry and should therefore provide post-war employment for many men now in the armed services.

Strong Buildup For Mono's 'Silver Skates'

For the opening engagement of "Silver Skates," Monogram's ice special, in the Hollywood Theatre, Toronto, the management has put on an extensive publicity campaign. In addition to the regular newspaper space, tieups have been made with two of the broadcasting stations to broadcast the two song hits of the picture.

All the leading orchestras in the city have been playing the hit numbers of the pictures two weeks prior to the engagement.

The picture was screened a week before the opening for the heads of the Toronto Skating Club, the Granite Club and the leading amateur skaters of the city.

Romance



Don Ameche and lovely Janet Blair are the stars in the new Columbia musical hit, "Something to Shout About," which features songs by Cole Porter.

Metro, Korda Hook Up

One of the most important mergers in the history of British and American film production and one with far-reaching effect on the future relations of the film industry in the United States and Great Britain has been announced. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which in the past produced many successful films in England, and Sir Alexander Korda have merged their British production interests. Hereafter they will be associated in making outstanding films in Great Britain.

Sir Alexander, a leading figure in the film world, was responsible for such notable British pictures as "The Private Life of Henry the Eighth," "The Scarlet Pimpernel," "The Ghost Goes West," "The Thief of Bagdad," "Four Feathers," "Lady Hamilton," and others. He brought to the screen such outstanding stars as Robert Donat, Charles Laughton, Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson, Merle Oberon (Lady Korda), Vivien Leigh, Sabu, Binnie Barnes and many more.

He founded London Film Productions, Ltd., in 1932 and Alexander Korda Film Productions in 1938. He also built and operated the Denham studios near London.

Metro has produced a number of successful pictures in London including "A Yank at Oxford," starring Robert Taylor; "The Citadel," starring Robert Donat; "Goodbye Mr. Chips," also starring Donat and introducing to the screen Greer Garson, this year's Academy award winner, and the forthcoming "Sabotage Agent," a topical spy drama starring Donat.

Sir Alexander is now at the MGM studios conferring with Louis B. Mayer and other studio executives concerning future productions in London. No definite plans have been made yet for the first pictures to be put into production, but decisions will be made before Sir Alexander leaves for London within a month.

"I am happy to become affiliated with the great Loew organization, with its unexcelled production and distribution facilities," Sir Alexander said. "We plan to maintain the same high standards set by both organizations in British pictures of the past."

Garneau Back

Lieut.-Col. Raymond Garneau, V.D., who organized the financing of the Capitol Theatre Limited, Quebec, has retired from active service and returned to Green-shields & Co. Lieut.-Col. Garneau served in the last war from 1915 to 1919 and in this one since 1939.

H. Rankin Boosts St. Patrick's Day

Harland Rankin, Tilbury and Chatham theatre man, celebrated St. Patrick's Day with no deviation from his well-known habit of distributing cravats. The Canadian tie industry owes much to Harland, whose donated neckgear adorns the throat and chest of many a friend who remembers Harland's generosity long after the tie has quit binding.

For the Irish holiday Harland despatched a green tie to this office. Also a poem from a friend of his, called "A Favour," which you can have for your scrapbook:

If you want to get a favour done,
By some obliging friend;
And want a promise safe and sure
On which you may depend,
Don't go to him who always has
Much leisure time to plan,
But if you want a favour done
Just ask the busy man.

The man with leisure never has
A moment he can spare,
He's always putting off until
His friends are in despair,
For he whose every waking hour
Is crowded full of work,
Forgets the art of wasting time
He cannot stop to shirk.

So if you want your favour done
And want it right away,
Go to the man who constantly
Works twenty hours a day,
He'll find a moment sure some-
where.

That has no other use,
And fix you while the idle man
Is framing an excuse.

MENACE



STERN-VISAGED Helmut Dantine, a refugee from Nazi tyranny, does his bit to convey to the American people the sinister character of the enemy. He will next be seen in Warner Bros. "Mission To Moscow."

Fromkess Scores For PRC Gains

A caricature of the typical "B" producer who specializes in action pictures certainly doesn't fit Leon Fromkess, sparkplug of the fast-growing PRC organization. There is nothing low budget about the man who has startled Hollywood. He is a soft spoken gentleman of culture and his decisions are never



shrouded with conventional picture procrastination.

Stars, who make it a habit to shun new picture companies, are now anxious to play in PRC productions and there is good reason for the name players re-appraisal of a company that has smashed all cinema tradition.

PRC is no longer a little company, whose future is in doubt. Production budgets have been materially increased every three months and already PRC is playing many of its pictures in "A" houses throughout the United States.

The production itinerary just announced by Leon Fromkess for 1943 gives every evidence of even greater production values than "Girls in Chains" and "Corregidor," two specials soon to be released by PRC.

In many of the 1943 pictures Fromkess has doubled or tripled the 1942 budgets. Among the films to be made are "Forgotten Children," by Jim Tully, "The Last Page," by Martin Mooney, "Latitude Zero," "His Honor, the Mayor," "The Cossacks Ride Again," "Waterfront," "Hate Ship," "Isle of Forgotten Sins," "Danger: Women at Work," "Talent School," "The Night is Long," "The Executioner," "They Can't Get Away With It," and two big musicals — one of which will be captioned, "Oh, Say Can You Sing."

Production units, which will spend in excess of a million dollars

on PRC's 1943 releases, include Arthur Ripley, Jack Schwartz, Sig Neufeld, Alexander-Stern, Atlantis Productions, and S. & N. Productions.

Leon Fromkess announces that in 1943 PRC will make its own pictures. Practically everything PRC's production chief has done in twelve months has been contrary to accepted formula.

Therefore, it wasn't surprising when he recently appointed Martin Mooney, screen writer, as story editor of PRC, a move which Hollywood regards as a stride in the right direction.

Yes, Leon Fromkess is one Wall Street man who made good in Hollywood. He's got PRC going places and don't be surprised if this new corporation emerges soon as a major company in picture production. That undoubtedly is Leon Fromkess' objective and there is every possibility that he can do it.

Toronto Police Board Reports on Theatres

"If the provincial authorities or any other department or any citizen will report to the chief constable any evidence of overcrowding or obstruction of the aisles in any theatre or public hall, the chief constable will see that the complaint is properly investigated and the premises in question visited." So says a report to Mayor Conboy of Toronto from the board of police commissioners.

It was prepared by the police and fire chiefs and commissioners of finance and buildings, regarding inspection of theatres and public halls, on request of the police commissioners.

"The provincial authorities report overcrowding in certain theatres presents a serious menace," the report adds. "In our opinion the public in general is somewhat apathetic in respect to the necessity for and the observance of safety measures." The report urged an educational campaign.

Complete Darkness Causes Nervousness

When the exit lights in a Toronto theatre went out temporarily, none of the ushers had the presence of mind to stand by the exits with flashlights on. This caused a patron to report the nervousness of the audience to one of the daily papers in a letter to the editor.

The patron suggested that an emergency source should be available to provide power for exit signs in such cases.



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